92

Posted by u/DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Hi, I'm Dan Doctoroff, CEO of Sidewalk Labs. Ask me anything about Sidewalk Toronto.

AMA

I'm the CEO of Sidewalk Labs, an Alphabet company focused on improving urban life.

After 18 months of planning work and public input, our "Toronto Tomorrow" proposal was released last month. Across 1,500 pages, the proposal outlines a new approach for inclusive growth along the city's eastern waterfront. Check out https://sidewalktoronto.ca to read the full plan, or whatever parts interest you most!

Proof: https://twitter.com/sidewalklabs/status/1154404922982588416

We know the proposal is big, and that some parts get technical. I'll be here on Friday afternoon (July 26) at 3 p.m. ET to answer your questions, joined by our Editorial Director Eric Jaffe (lead writer for the proposal) and our Director for Public Policy Innovation Simon Brandler (who guided the policy proposals in Volume 3).

We look forward to answering your questions!

This AMA will cover the full proposal. In the coming weeks, other Sidewalk experts will participate in additional AMAs to focus on specific aspects of the proposal in greater detail, including data and digital governance (Aug 1), affordable housing and timber construction (Aug 6), Sustainable energy and transportation (Aug 13), Quayside plans and public spaces (Aug 20), and the partnership and business model (Aug 27). The full schedule is here: https://www.sidewalktoronto.ca/events/reddit-ama/.

The AMA sessions are an opportunity for Sidewalk to answer questions and clarify aspects of our proposal — but they aren't part of Waterfront Toronto's public consultation process, which is your opportunity to weigh in with your views. I'd encourage Torontonians to participate in that process, including via an online survey that's open until July 31: https://quaysideto.ca/get-involved/public-consultation/.

EDIT: I've stayed as long as I could, but I've run out of time for today! Remember, there are five more subject-matter specific AMAs coming up in the next few weeks (see the link above). I'll note that a number of the questions we didn't get to today relate to the subject of next Thursday's AMA on data and digital governance. We look forward to answering more of your questions.

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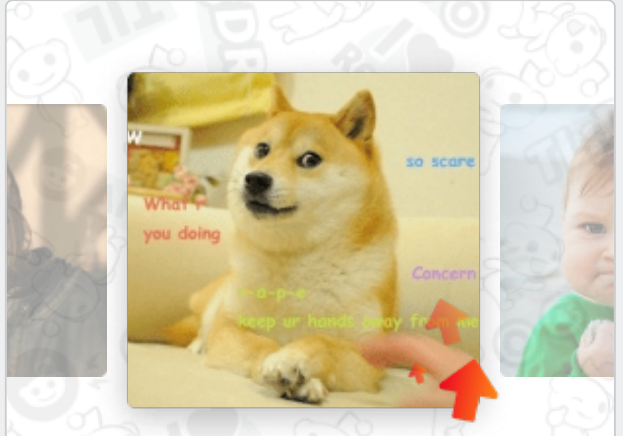

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Fapitalismm Vaccine Booked! 1 year ago · Stickied comment

Hey there! As a reminder, Dan will be answering questions from 3-4PM on Friday :)

Look forward to seeing everyone's questions and discussions!

Vote Share Report Save

jayt-cfc 1 year ago

Gives Alphabet's legal and PR teams some time to filter through the questions and sugar coat things, huh?

0 Share Report Save

Fapitalismm Vaccine Booked! 1 year ago

If you've seen any of our other previous AMAs, they normally post 1-2 days in advance for people who are unable to attend to ask questions.

9 Share Report Save

gammadeltat <3 Celine Dion <3 1 year ago

We are a smaller sub, we wouldn't be able to get AMA guests if we average 6 questions an AMA.

7 Share Report Save

harvest277 1 year ago

Hi Dan, can you address the legal can of worms involved in making private profits off of public data? For example, if I am walking down a sidewalk in Quayside, do you consider this consent to collect, use, and monetize data gained from observing me? I've heard a lot about the benefits of smart cities and data-driven policy making, but very little about consent and data stewardship and thought I might give you the chance to speak to these issues.

248 Share Report Save

wedontswiminsoda 1 year ago

great question, hope it's answered

34 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

Fitzsimmons 1 year ago

This, but also especially for children.

15 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Thank you for this question. We do believe data has a big role to play (alongside great urban design) in improving quality of life. But we also know that this project can't succeed unless people can trust the approach to protecting data privacy. We've given a lot of thought to this, and I will try to address each concern you raise.

First, on profiting off public data. As you note, there's a certain type of data that could be collected in a physical environment. We call it "urban data," and we recognize that this type of data could be considered a public asset — something the community itself should have stewardship over. That is why we've proposed that an independent, government-sanctioned entity called an Urban Data Trust should have oversight of urban data, with the ability to approve or deny all proposals (including ours) to collect or use this information. We think this entity should make any such data publicly available (when properly protected for privacy) for the whole community to use, whether for research purposes or to develop data-driven tools that can improve people's lives.

Right now it's kinda the wild west for urban data, and we believe ideas like the Urban Data Trust can help bring some important oversight for cities.

More broadly, selling data is not part of Sidewalk Labs' business model. We have committed not to sell personal information or to use it for advertising, and we have committed not to share it with ANY third parties (including other Alphabet companies) without explicit consent. Instead, we hope to make money off traditional real estate development (such as collecting rents) and the creation of certain innovations that improve cities (some of which use data to operate, but many of which — like mass timber or modular pavement — do not).

Next, on the matters of consent you raise, this is another important issue that we believe the Urban Data Trust can manage in a proactive way. We know such consent would be difficult or impossible to achieve -- just as you can't give meaningful consent to the many traffic cameras that hang over intersections today. We think in such instances, there must be VERY clear and transparent signage saying that data is being collected, and pointing people to where they can read more about WHY it's being collected.

That leads to your question about "observing" you. None of our proposals involve personal surveillance. Who would want to live in such a place? All of our proposed innovations that use urban data would have to have a beneficial PUBLIC purpose, such as improving traffic safety or air quality. If a proposal by anyone (whether us or another company / entity) did not have such a purpose, we'd hope that the Urban Data Trust would not approve it.

I hope that starts to answer your concerns. I'd encourage you to join the next AMA (Aug 1, 1 pm) with our data and digital government experts, who can offer even more detail into our thinking. You can also read Chapter 5 of Volume 2 for more on our approach to data privacy.

23 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

GeorgeBrettLawrie 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Hi Dan,

I have some questions more about the nuts and bolts of the arrangement that I'm having difficulty understanding.

- The FAQ page states that "The majority of the land in the eastern waterfront is owned by the City of Toronto. Some areas are owned by other government agencies, such as Ports Toronto, and approximately 15 percent of the land is owned by private parties." Who currently owns the "77-hectare area called the IDEA District" that Sidewalk plans to build on and how will Sidewalk gain ownership of the land?
- Alphabet is offering 10% of the income from the technology developed over the first 10 years there. How is there any way to monitor how this specific data is monetized and differentiated from the rest of the company?
- Are there plans in place to ensure that Sidewalk's building and infrastructure don't become derelict if Alphabet loses interest, or money, or is broken up by antitrust?

edit: formatting

45 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

These are great questions — and I appreciate that you've started to engage closely with the proposal. Let me take each separately.

First, you're right that land within the proposed IDEA District is owned by various private and public landowners, including the province and the city. Under our proposal, most of the 77 hectares in the IDEA District would NOT be developed by Sidewalk Labs, but by others. We propose to serve as lead developer of just two sites: Quayside, which is owned by Waterfront Toronto, and Villiers West, which would need to be assembled and transferred to Sidewalk Labs as part of an agreement. Together, these sites (which are the only ones we'd propose to buy/own) make up just 16% of the IDEA District. And for both Quayside and Villiers West, Sidewalk Labs has committed to work with local development partners.

On your second bullet, just to clarify, Sidewalk Labs is making this offer, not Alphabet itself. We have proposed an unprecedented arrangement, in which the public sector would receive 10% of the profits of certain Sidewalk Labs technologies first deployed at scale in connection with the Toronto project, for 10 years. Ultimately, how to calculate or audit profits is a matter for negotiation, and there are various models that could be used for that. What matters most is that we believe strongly the public should share in the upside it helps to create.

To your last Q, we've proposed a comprehensive strategy to mitigate and manage the risks of implementing the proposal for Waterfront Toronto, the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and the public. This includes a phased development strategy, where we must earn the right to move from Quayside to Villiers West by delivering on commitments; self-sustaining revenue sources that cover the maintenance and operational costs of new entities and infrastructure into the future; and a series of financial off-ramps that would provide legal remedies and fair compensation to the parties in the event the project does not proceed as planned. In short, our innovative solutions would only pertain to Quayside and Villiers West unless and until we demonstrate the efficacy and financial viability of those new solutions.

1 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

[deleted] 1 year ago

Hi Dan,

As somebody who has applied to Sidewalk Labs in the past, I'm curious as to why you don't have more of a staff presence in Toronto. I can understand wanting to keep the team under one roof (in NYC currently), but we have many talented individuals in this city who work in design and technology, and further to that, many who have experience dealing with our political climate.

The problems Torontonians face are not 1:1 with those faced in NYC, or America as a whole. Don't you think it would be beneficial to your organization as well as this particular initiative to have more people from here working on the project?

109 Share Report Save

amnguincct 1 year ago

Great question. I feel uncomfortable about so many who don't live in this city (or country) making design decisions about and for our city.

40 Share Report Save

JokesOnUUU Davisville Village 1 year ago

This. I'm one of the few people without privacy concerns; but I am worried about the development work being done by people from another culture who are going to make some bad choices due to that.

10 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

A: We agree, and we now have a staff of more than 30 people based in Toronto, at our local headquarters of 307 Lake Shore Blvd. (You should visit!) That represents a significant share of our company employees; Sidewalk Labs is still a fairly small startup of only about 100 people.

This Toronto-based staff includes urban planners and former public servants with years of experience working on major city projects, including Toronto's West Don Lands and East Bayfront developments, the Bentway park beneath the Gardiner Expressway, the Evergreen Brick Works site, the Eglinton Crosstown rapid transit line, and many others.

This team has also worked closely with every public-sector development agency, including CreateTO, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, and Infrastructure Ontario. We also have people who have worked directly in City of Toronto government.

In developing our Toronto Tomorrow proposal, we also worked closely with more than 100 local firms on the research, engineering, and design work, including PARTISANS, RWDI, urbanMetrics, and many others.

12 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

Krukar 1 year ago

Hey Dan

Any comment on the numerous privacy experts either stepping down from advisory panels or openly coming out against Sidewalk Toronto over privacy concerns?

84 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

First, it's worth correcting a misimpression. We've had dozens of people on many different advisory boards, and as far as I can remember, three have resigned, none since last November.

I wouldn't want to speak for anyone else. But I do think it's worth noting that, I think there's agreement about the right way forward on privacy, even if there are some differences about how we get there.

For example, I think that's the case with Ann Cavoukian, who served as one of our original privacy advisors and was very instrumental in our commitment to use Privacy by Design. Our disagreement involved whether Sidewalk Labs would impose certain requirements on the proposed Urban Data Trust. We felt it should be up to the Trust, an independent oversight body, to decide — and we do strongly hope it makes that decision!

And again, we're committed to using Privacy by Design principles in everything we do at Sidewalk Labs, which involves minimizing the use of data and de-identifying data by default, among other techniques.

9 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

[deleted] 1 year ago

Hi Dan

As you may be aware Google/Alphabet has a reputation for dropping well-loved products for reasons that may not be convincing or satisfying to the users. Inbox, Reader, Nest, etc. What would you say to people who aren't comfortable handing over such a large-scale, physical project in their city to an organization with that sort of reputation?

22 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

First off, something I've already mentioned bears repeating: while Sidewalk Labs is an Alphabet company, we operate independently from Google.

Now, as with any other developer of a large-scale project, we would expect a series of contingencies and requirements would hold us to our commitments. More specifically, we have proposed various risk-mitigation strategies, including "off-ramps" that would ensure fair compensation and legal remedies in the event that the proposal doesn't advance as planned.

I had a few more details in my answer to GeorgeBrettLawrie - https://www.reddit.com/r/toronto/comments/chovjn/hi_im_dan_doctoroff_ceo_of_sidewalk_labs_ask_me/euwb2gu/. I'd also encourage you to explore Volume 3 of the MIDP, which examines these off ramps in greater detail, or to join the AMA on Aug 27, which will focus on our partnership proposal.

4 Share Report Save

helix527 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Hi Dan,

Many have expressed concern about the huge amount of lobbying by Google Sidewalk Labs prior to the release of the proposal. This lobbying occurred at all three levels of government, and according to public lobbying records, was led by a who's who of Bay Street lobbying firms.

Reporter Matt Elliott noted that 1/3 of all lobbying at city hall last February came from Google Sidewalk Labs and its hired lobbyists.

Why was there such an intensive lobbying effort months before the release of the report to the public?

21 Share Report Save

utopian_cage 1 year ago

Good question, an answer would be good to see.

3 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

pleasehelpuw 1 year ago

Hi Dan, my question is: why should the massive amounts of personal and sensitive data that the residents of Toronto have no way of escaping be non-negotiably be handed over to a private corporation?

98 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

I hope I've answered most of this concern in my earlier answer to harvest277: https://www.reddit.com/r/toronto/comments/chovjn/hi_im_dan_doctoroff_ceo_of_sidewalk_labs_ask_me/euw8wtu/. But some of it bears repeating.

Most of our proposals do not involve personal data. There's a helpful table in Chapter 5 of Volume 2 of the Master Innovation and Development Plan (MIDP) that shows which of our ideas might use personal data, and which don't.

Instead, our digital innovations focus primarily on urban data, which includes non-personal or aggregated (de-identified) information that can provide broad insights into things total neighborhood energy use or traffic patterns. Again, this data would be made publicly accessible for others to use via the Urban Data Trust — it is not ours to own. (And again, not all our innovations are digital in nature!)

On personal information in particular, any such collection would always remain under the protection of existing Canadian privacy laws, as it does today.

Finally, we are flexible and open to further negotiation. We have submitted a proposal for the community, Waterfront Toronto, and government to consider. We believe strongly that it can improve quality of life in significant ways, but we also know it will be refined by further public feedback over time, and it will have to go through a set of approvals based on this refinement. I'd encourage you to participate in any future consultations.

5 Share Report Save

Comment deleted by user 1 year ago More than 1 child

zharguy CityPlace 1 year ago

Given the province's current push for austerity, in the likely event that no funding is available for the QQ East streetcar, will you abandon the Quayside project, or change the scope of the development?

34 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

We do think that transit expansions are the key to unlocking any new development in a dense urban area. Without it you can't create the type of sustainable mobility options the city wants and needs. That's why the City spent so much energy creating great plans for a waterfront transit expansion.

But there's no question that a host of transit priorities are competing for limited public resources. That's why we've proposed the use of tax increment financing for the Waterfront LRT, which is a form of self-financing commonly used across North America, including for major projects in Edmonton and Calgary. Under this approach, the public sector would borrow funds to finance the LRT, which would then be repaid through the tax revenue the LRT generates in the future.

I should also note that one of the traditional barriers to using TIF is that investors require government serve as a "backstop" to pay interest to lenders during the period before new development generates enough new property tax revenue to cover those costs. We're prepared to relieve the public sector of a lot of this responsibility by serving as the initial backstop for financing these segments, offering to front up to $100 million.

8 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

my002 1 year ago

Sidewalk Labs has released quite a few things about the project, including the recent "Master Innovation and Development Plan," but I think that many members of the public are still rightly concerned about the vagueness of many of the proposals. With that in mind, I wanted to ask two specific questions about two key components of the plan, affordable housing and privacy.

1. The MIDP refers to an "ambitious housing program" that proposes that 40% of its housing will be offered at below-market rates, but the means of achieving this are fairly vague ("a combination of existing government funding sources and new innovations"-- p. 269). Do you plan to mandate (or ask the city to mandate) that all private developers who develop the Quayside **must** offer 40% of housing units that they construct at below-market rates?
2. The MIDP proposes a 5 member "Urban Data Trust" to set up and oversee how data is used. How will the members of this trust be selected, and how much power will any one member have to either accept or decline any specific request for data access?

15 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Thanks so much for the question. We did our best to provide an unprecedented level of transparency in our proposal (not to mention the dozens of technical appendices available online!) The tradeoff with all these details, of course, is that it's sometimes difficult to find all the answers…

In response to your first question, while we have committed to delivering Quayside with local development partners, Sidewalk Labs would serve as lead developer. That which means that our ambitious commitment to delivering 40% of all units at below-market housing would apply to the entirety of the project. In the MIDP, we specifically explained the sources and uses of funds to achieve the precedent-setting level of affordable housing. You can find that in Chapter 3 of Volume 2 (Page 279 to be exact!).

We would expect that this commitment would be memorialized as a deal term in any implementation agreement with Waterfront Toronto. We've also committed to achieving 40% below-market housing in Villiers West, too.

As far as Urban Data Trust, I appreciate that you've read about the implementation plans in detail (for those who haven't, see Pages 414-441 of Chapter 5 in Volume 2). No matter what, Sidewalk Labs would not be selecting board members. I'd encourage you to join next week's AMA with our data governance experts, but at a high level, we think the board could act similar to the way an IRB oversees academic institutions. We also think there should be clear guidelines to ensure the independence of the board, including term limits, conflict of interest policies, and diversity. We also know there are many ways to achieve the goal of better privacy protection and are open to other ideas for digital governance, including a recent proposal from the Toronto Region Board of Trade.

6 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

[deleted] 1 year ago

Great questions, hope they get answered

2 Share Report Save

FoxShmulder 1 year ago

Hi Dan! How do I opt out data collection if I'm visiting a mate?

15 Share Report Save

jwork127 1 year ago

Hello.

How would you explain the lack of trust between you guys and the general public right now and why should we trust you with our data?

Thanks

34 Share Report Save

agent_wolfe 1 year ago

Happy cake day!

1 Share Report Save

Filbert17 1 year ago

how do I go through public spaces and ensure you (as in Sidewalk Labs, Google, or Alphabet) have zero tracking data on me?

38 Share Report Save

ks016 1 year ago

You already can't

8 Share Report Save

jayalldayerrday 1 year ago

I mean, don't you use google maps? All the tracking data needed from you is already captured there

3 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

I'd point you to my earlier answer, to harvest277. I'd also note that we as a company operate independently from Google and other Alphabet companies. And again, we have committed to not sharing personal data with third parties (including Alphabet companies) without explicit consent. The decisions about what data would be collected and under what conditions would not be ultimately be up to Sidewalk Labs, but at the judgment of the government-sanctioned Urban Data Trust.

1 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

LurkerRushMeta 1 year ago

When news articles about controversy surrounding this project came out there was suddenly a lot of twitter chatter with positive outlooks on your project. Namely, many self titled "privacy advocates" tweeted out the exact same message about how Sidewalk Labs is great. Your company's initial response was that it had not purchased these bots. If we take your word and the company did not, why would a third party purchase bot tweets? Who will our data be sold to? Why should we, as a city, trust your business to not sell data whole sale?

Article for reference: https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/twitter-botnet-sidewalklabs-canada-election-1.5206900

27 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

As we noted when this emerged, we had nothing to do with the bots. If you take a look at their twitter feeds, they tweet out a wide assortment of articles about privacy unrelated to Sidewalk Labs. I hope you'll take my word for this, unless of course you think I'm a bot myself, in which case I'm not sure I can help! :)

7 Share Report Save

MatthewFabb 1 year ago

> If we take your word and the company did not, why would a third party purchase bot tweets?

Those bots were all tweeting out every single article from the website Future of Privacy Forum. That website had a pro-Sidewalk Labs article. A few hours after that article went live, all those bots tweeted the article just as they had tweeted out every single other article from that website. They didn't even have any original content in the tweet, it was just the text generated from the Twitter share button.

So the purpose of those bots seemed to be to promote that website, the Future of Privacy Forum. However, since none of the bots had any real followers, they all just followed each other, I wonder if it was just to push up the analytics of the website. To either help get more advertisements or to perhaps help convince other writers to write for that website, by showing that their social media presence was much larger than it actually was.

2 Share Report Save

MJRBIM 1 year ago

…because the Auto-Bots follow **any CONTROVERSIAL issue** - and try to enflame both sides.

https://www.businessinsider.com/russia-trolls-senate-intelligence-committee-hearing-2017-11

1 Share Report Save

i_eat_pasta Wexford 1 year ago

Hi Dan, how's it going?

Morally speaking, do you think it's right to turn a part of the city into a major panopticon for farming data?

81 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

I sure don't! I wouldn't want to live in such a place.

But some of the commenters here are spot on: data is not all bad, and in fact we think it can help move the needle in significant ways of sustainability, economic opportunity, and affordability — provided the proper governance is in place. It can be used to better manage traffic flows, improve energy consumption, enhance programming for public space, and many, many other applications.

As I noted, in many ways it's the wild west in cities right now, with thousands of digital devices already in operation in Toronto alone, by either the public sector or in some cases the private vendors they hire. And that doesn't include private parties collecting data in public spaces, such as security cameras.

Given that reality, I do think it's essential for cities to create stronger approaches to the governance of data used or collected in physical spaces (urban data), to provide clearer oversight and guidelines for such use, and to establish greater accountability and protections for personal privacy and the public good. That's what we hope our Urban Data Trust proposal achieves.

13 Share Report Save

iappearmissing 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

There is going to be a heavy amount of data collection in public spaces (there already is). It's not just a part of Sidewalks plan it's an inevitable part of the future. Part of what the goal of the area is is to be a model for future cities - so the focus should be on how the data is used and who owns it (and not just letting private corporations own the public data, which would be the outcome if no plans were put in place)

3 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

slykethephoxenix 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Personally, if it benefits everyone, then yes. I'm not a fan of authoritarian police states, but I do see value in data driven decisions, planning and studies. This could help us get the data part of that.

Getting data shouldn't be a moral question. How the data is used instead should be.

Edit: Downvoting me and not stating why you disagree kinda makes you just as bad and the reason we need data in the first place - people don't see the bigger picture.

-1 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

_rand_mcnally_ 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

> Sidewalk Labs recognizes that this land we now call Toronto has been the site of human activity for over 15,000 years; we are within the Treaty Lands and claimed Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. Toronto is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. It is the responsibility of all people to share in wise stewardship and peaceful care of the land and its resources. We are mindful of a history of broken treaties, and of the urgent need to work continuously towards reconciliation, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this land.

What is Sidewalk Labs actively doing to work towards reconciliation and to do their part to share in the wise stewardship and peaceful care of the land and it's resources?

You've written up the PR and put it on the landing page. What's next? Is there a plan of action to actually accomplish these lofty goals that no government has been able to achieve in the history of Canada? A cynical person may look at Sidewalk Labs as just another condo development but bankrolled by a tech giant. I think the indigenous people of Canada are pretty used to getting platitudes but is there real action outside of this statement posted on the site? Thanks!

50 Share Report Save

amnguincct 1 year ago

Great question - are they hiring indigenous people? Artists? Are they putting funds into local indigenous organizations or providing land/real estate usage?

7 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Thanks for the important question. We've taken Indigenous engagement very seriously, and will continue to do so.

In response, I'd point you to Pages 154-155 of the Overview volume, which outline some of the commitments we've made to Indigenous communities. These include continued engagement as I mentioned earlier; workforce initiatives such as skills training and jobs (in collaboration with the Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training and the Centre for Indigenous Innovation and Technology); and design consultation for our plans.

On this last point, I'd encourage you to read a recent blog post on the urban design for Quayside, which describes some of our collaborative design work with Brook McIlroy's Indigenous Design Studio, and how this work has helped shape some proposed open spaces: https://medium.com/sidewalk-toronto/how-the-urban-design-for-quayside-evolved-in-response-to-public-feedback-b114d4bb0bad

Finally, in partnership with Waterfront Toronto, we've also started an important ongoing dialogue between project staff, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Chief R. Stacey Laforme, and the MCFN Department of Consultation and Accommodation (DOCA).

9 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

freshtomatoes 1 year ago

Maybe they're giving the land back!!!

1 Share Report Save

Ltrly_Htlr 1 year ago

Hi Dan

For the record, I'm completely opposed to this project and think it's a terrible idea, as already we are seeing the terrible negative effects caused by mass data collection with respect to organizations like Facebook and Alphabet.

How do you expect to convince people like me that you can be trusted?

23 Share Report Save

sinoforever 1 year ago

They are under Alphabet

1 Share Report Save

starcaptaindread 1 year ago

They plan to silence people like you that oppose their globalist agena. We should kick Sidewalk labs out of Canada. They are stealing Canadian IP and data.

-2 Share Report Save

[deleted] 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

I think there are many people in this city who do not understand exactly what Sidewalk Labs is trying to accomplish and we want full honesty and transparency. We can't help but assume the motive for a large private corporation wanting to develop a public part of our city is for nefarious, purely self-serving reasons (as most business moves made by large corporations are).

We are worried that our privacy and data will be compromised in an age when companies like Alphabet have been found to abuse our rights and wishes. We want accountability and integrity.

We are worried that in a city that already struggles with affordability, overzealous construction of private residences, and poor infrastructure development, we will have yet another construction project that screws over the layperson while catering to the elites.

We are worried that if your company does ultimately lie to us, abuse our trust, or ruin a very tangible and permanent part of our city, that we will not see any justice for the wrongdoings. Large corporations are notorious for receiving light or non-existent penalties for their crimes, and Alphabet is about as large as they get (ie: endless resources to throw at the problem until it goes away).

So tell us, Dan, why should we put our trust in the company you work for? Why should we allow ourselves to be your guinea pigs? In detail, tell us, what are you doing to ensure our worst nightmares don't come true? Will decisions on development be made based on what elites push for, or what's good for our city, especially for our most marginalized citizens?

25 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Thank you for these questions. I do think a lot of Torontonians share some of the concerns you've raised. When I was part of City government in New York, I had similar questions of accountability for companies that wanted to work with the public sector.

In terms of what we're trying to accomplish, there are really two big things.

First, we want to demonstrate the impact of urban innovation on quality of life. We're a mission-driven company dedicated to using technology and design to improve urban life. And we spelled out in detail — 1500+ pages worth — precisely how we intend to deliver on key priority outcomes for Toronto, including economic development and job creation, climate positive-development and sustainability, new mobility, and housing affordability. We also outline our approach to data, including being subject to independent oversight of our urban data collection and use.

But second, we're also a for-profit company that wants to earn a reasonable return, and we couldn't reasonably ask anyone to trust us blindly. Ultimately, our proposal will be subject to robust public consultation. Any deal must be scrutinized, negotiated, and (we hope) approved by Waterfront Toronto and the three levels of government it represents. This includes thinking through not only what happens if everything goes right, but also risk-mitigation strategies and the financial and legal remedies that would apply if things don't go as planned. And even after the project is built, it will be subject to ongoing oversight from the public sector.

Canadian government has successfully protected the public interest while executing on other large Toronto projects before, and everything we've seen to date suggests that they're more than up to the task. Simon (who's helping with this AMA) wrote a great blog post on how our proposal puts government in the driver's seat, and I'd encourage you to read it: https://medium.com/sidewalk-toronto/how-our-toronto-tomorrow-proposal-recognizes-the-strong-central-role-of-government-69af3536d35f

Also, it's worth responding to your suggestion that our plan would make anyone "guinea pigs." While our proposal is innovative, and would leverage certain new ideas, much of our plan relies on integrating design insights and technical solutions already successful elsewhere. We didn't invent the concepts of thermal grids, pneumatic waste, or mass timber, for example — but we propose bringing together these elements, along with others, to deliver the largest climate-positive district in North America and achieve a host of other policy aims.

Similarly, we didn't invent the use of traffic signal data to improve transportation networks (in fact many Canadian companies lead this field), but we do think we can apply such technology to help the public achieve its goals for safer streets, fewer pedestrian deaths, faster transit service, and greater accessibility.

2 Share Report Save

gammadeltat <3 Celine Dion <3 1 year ago

Hi Dan,

Thanks for engaging with us again. I think there's still a lot of uncertainty behind the project which drives concerns that Torontonians have. In that vein, I have a couple questions.

1. How was the inclusion of Villiers West justified? Were the respective public authorities privy to this adjustment before the MIDP came out? Publicly, it seemed like a shock for everyone to see a whole other neighbourhood included in the pilot development.
2. Lots of discussions surrounding data and data privacy appear to be vague. Purposefully vague information regarding privacy usually means that the person doing the collection has more leverage in obtaining it and using it. Are there any specifics you could give us that would tell us A) Exactly the kinds of data you are collecting, B) How you are using our data, and C) Who you are sharing our data with?
3. Personally, I think a lot of the distrust in SidewalkTO arises from misunderstanding or lack of information on the business plan. Also, IIRC, from what I skimmed in the MIDP, there wasn't a lot of talk about the $$$ for Sidewalk Labs. I'm aware that numbers can't be made up until the project is really underway but how much does SidewalkTO expect to invest, how much do you expect Toronto, Ontario, and Canada to invest? How will you generate revenue from this project moving forward? Will Toronto see financial benefit for being the guinea pig? Do you have any early projections for any of these amounts?

17 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Thanks for these questions. I'll go in order.

On 1: With respect to Villiers West, Waterfront Toronto originally sought proposals that went beyond Quayside to explore "district-level solutions," "plans at scale," and a proposal to deliver a climate-positive eastern waterfront. This began with the original RFP and was carried through the Plan Development Agreement with Waterfront Toronto. (You can find both documents on the Sidewalk Toronto website.)

We regularly briefed Waterfront Toronto and the three orders of government as the plan was being developed, including about the inclusion of Villiers West. Critically, Villiers West would not only extend the innovations begun at Quayside, but would establish a major economic development and job creation hub, with a Google Canadian headquarters and a graduate-level applied research institution, the Urban Innovation Institute. It is a proposal that we believe presents an extraordinary economic opportunity for Toronto.

Finally, I'll note that we believe the inclusion of Villiers West is necessary to achieve the ambitious priority outcomes established by Waterfront Toronto in a financially feasible way. That's critical, not just for this project itself, but for Waterfront Toronto's goal that this can become a "global demonstration" for other cities around the world, especially around sustainability. This replicability is essential for protecting the planet.

But, in any event, the MIDP is just a proposal, and would require the approval of Waterfront Toronto and the City of Toronto, which along with Ports Toronto owns Villiers Island.

On 2: As mentioned earlier, you can read more about what kinds of data we are proposing to collect for our digital innovations in Chapter 5 of Volume 2. See Pages 444-447, as well as some case studies on 448-453.

Additionally, these innovations would be subject to approval by the Urban Data Trust, which we believe should publish what we call Responsible Data Use Assessments that outline the purpose of the proposal and the specific use of data in greater detail. (Sidewalk Labs itself has committed to publishing RDUAs regardless of whether or not the Trust requires them.)

Finally, to repeat a point made earlier, we commit to not sharing personal information with third parties (including Alphabet companies) without explicit consent. And we think the language used to acquire such consent should be very clear and not cloaked in legalese.

On 3: We certainly appreciate the public's interest in understanding the full details of the proposal. That's why we included a full breakout and description of the investments that we intend to make and how we would make money in Volume 3, Chapter 3 of the MIDP. Check out pages 154-155 in particular.

But in brief, Sidewalk Labs would catalyze up to $3.9 billion in real estate investments in Quayside and Villiers West. With third parties, Sidewalk Labs would also enable optional financing for municipal infrastructure, transit, and advanced systems totaling up to $1.6 billion, and spur economic growth through a series of targeted investments, including in an $80 million tall timber factory and a venture fund targeting Canadian startups.

Our proposal includes an estimated $900 million investment from Sidewalk Labs and its local development partners; an additional $400 million of financing that Sidewalk Labs would offer to the public sector as an option to expand the LRT and deliver municipal infrastructure; and additional capital (equity and debt) that Sidewalk Labs expects to facilitate for the delivery of advanced systems. Beyond Quayside and Villiers West, the catalytic impact of our real estate and infrastructure investments would unlock more than $29 billion in additional third-party real estate investments in the broader 77-hectare IDEA District.

As far as how Sidewalk Labs plans to make money, I mentioned earlier to user SoKeta, but in short, we expect to receive traditional real estate development proceeds from Quayside and Villiers West, including from renting or selling units. We would also be compensated for our costs to supply certain advisory services and a limited number of technology products to the private sector. And, if government chose to use our optional financing for infrastructure, we'd expect returns at market rates.

[edited for formatting]

6 Share Report Save

Taurwen_Nar-ser 1 year ago

Hello Dan, if I freely give up all my privacy, will Google provide me with cheap living quarters and a good job with benefits?

22 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Good news! You DON'T have to give up any privacy to find affordable living options in Quayside. We have an unprecedented program of 40% below-market housing, including 20% traditional affordable housing (at least a quarter of which goes to "deep" affordability households), and 20% for middle-income households that don't quality for affordable housing but are getting priced out of downtown neighborhoods too often.

And at the risk of being a broken record, Google operates independently from Sidewalk Labs. We (not Google) are submitting this proposal, although we do have a commitment from Alphabet to establish a new Canadian headquarters for Google on the western edge of Villiers Island, as part of an agreed-upon transaction within the IDEA District.

As we've envisioned it, Quayside and Villiers West will have lots of great jobs — more than 11,000, to be exact, tech and non-tech — with benefits! And you can keep your privacy, too!

6 Share Report Save

tualatin 1 year ago

Hi Dan,

I read through the report. This is all nice as far as dystopian city-building goes, but ultimately still extremely creepy and unwanted. What can I do to prevent you guys from carrying this out?

19 Share Report Save

smilefromthestreets 1 year ago

So one of the major concerns with this is how a lot of tech companies seem to have missed the mark when it comes to inclusivity and diversity with how they implement technology. For example, face recognition which struggles with people of certain ethnicities. What actions is this project taking to avoid these mis-steps?

14 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

We are fully agreed that digital technology should not be used to exacerbate inequality. Simply put, there are no plans for facial recognition in the Toronto Tomorrow proposal.

We sub-titled our proposal "A New Approach for Inclusive Growth" for a reason. We believe that what we have put forth is a model for how to apply technology thoughtfully and, among other things, meaningfully lower the cost of living, helping to create a more inclusive community. For example, our whole approach to using mass timber is designed to achieve much greater predictability and project speed, which can enable developers to deliver record levels of affordable and below-market housing in the downtown core.

I would point you to the significant commitments we've made to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. You can find more details on Pages 150-155 in the Overview. These include designing accessibility for people of all ages and abilities (co-designed in collaboration with the accessibility community during 70 hours of co-design sessions), creating affordability for people of all incomes (including 40% below-market housing), ensuring opportunities for all (including small business incubators and community benefits), and robust social infrastructure.

I'd also note our commitment to Responsible AI, which includes principles around Fairness and Equity, Accountability, Transparency / explainability, Relevance, and Respect for human dignity. This framework was inspired by leading international standards, such as the Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence, which was signed by the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. You can find the full explanation on Page 411 of Chapter 5 in Volume 2 (Digital Innovation chapter).

I'd encourage you to join the data and digital governance AMA next week, which will feature some of our experts in these areas.

7 Share Report Save

utopian_cage 1 year ago

Another major issue here is the lack of diversity on design teams themselves. Considering that this is Google, there is a strong potential for untested technological solutions for problems that do not need a technological answer.

2 Share Report Save

goodways 1 year ago

Surely you can see that there are a lot of very concerned and angry people when it comes to this project. Seeing that this is very real and tangible, what are you doing to ensure that their concerns are being investigated and responded to?

10 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

As soon as we were awarded Waterfront Toronto's original RFP, giving us the right to develop the Toronto Tomorrow proposal, we embarked on a robust 18-month public engagement process. In the process, we directly engaged with more than 21,000 Torontonians in person at Sidewalk Toronto events and welcomed more than 11,000 people into our exhibition and office spaces at 307 Lake Shore Boulevard East.

These interactions fundamentally shaped our proposal, in ways big and small. Currently, Waterfront Toronto is engaging in a thorough public consultation process, which we expect will fundamentally shape its approach to negotiations — and will leave a further imprint on any ultimate project.

4 Share Report Save

cr0fty 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

For the past decade, Toronto is the second-worst city in Canada where housing pricing speculation created this wonderful bubble where the young generation is simply laughed out of the market.

Big money always finds a way to invest and park invest in Toronto real estate.

What is the plan to stop that from happening with the sale of residential units with this great project?

Here's hopping the second day after this project will be done there be no 70% of units available for rent by a smiley realtor that services clients overseas.

8 Share Report Save

utopian_cage 1 year ago

Your MIDP refers to "publicly accessible spaces" but not to public space. What is the difference between these two concepts, and why did you choose to frame it as "publicly accessible"?

4 Share Report Save

[deleted] 1 year ago

Great question hope we get an answer

1 Share Report Save

[deleted] 1 year ago

Hey Dan, if after you answer all the questions here and I decide I am against this project, is there anything I can do or is this more of a heads up we are coming out with this no matter what.

9 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

I hope my answers convince you to support the project! In addition to my answers here, I'd also encourage you to read the proposal in full to see how it stacks up against what you might have heard. And I'd encourage you to make your voice heard through Waterfront Toronto's ongoing consultation process: https://quaysideto.ca/get-involved/public-consultation/. This is a democratic process that requires approvals by Waterfront Toronto and your government representatives.

4 Share Report Save

StuGats The Junction 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Why don't start by paying everyone in the city of Toronto their fair share of the data Alphabet has harvested clandestinely and sold to the highest bidder regardless of concern for the intent of its use, only then will I humour talking about the merits of your surveillance capitalist utopia afterwords. Until there are stringent regulations protecting us from the endless assault on our privacy, the slow grift of our very identities and the erosion of our free will, I want none of this in my backyard. There's so much more your industry needs to atone for before we even consider handing over the complete governorship of people's corporeal lives.

Honestly, it's insane to me that there's federal laws protecting the privacy of our letter mail (even from private parcel companies so don't give me that crap about willingly handing it over to corporations) and yet not a single regulation protecting the use of our private online interactions. Anyone onboard with this doesn't fully understand the predatory nature of big data.

Since I'm lacking a question: How have you not realized you're on the wrong side of history yet?

21 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Let me start by saying I think of Sidewalk Labs as a place-making company, not a technology company. We are made up of an urban planners, architects, and former government officials, along with technologists who care about the urban environment.

Anyone who takes the time to read our proposal will understand that the approach we have taken is to work with the public sector and the community to understand the problems that they truly care about — incredible levels of unaffordability, people being caught in traffic for hours, more severe weather — and work together to find new answers to those challenges. That's what this is all about.

To some of your specific concerns, I'd note that we DO propose sharing in the value of certain innovations with the public sector (10% over 10 years) if those innovations benefited from the unique nature of this project; we will NOT sell personal data to third parties, and we will NOT share personal information with third parties (including Alphabet) without explicit consent; we do not propose to track or surveil individuals (see some of my earlier answers).

And finally, we agree there is a set of stronger protections that can be put into place to protect privacy. Our independent Urban Data Trust is just one such idea, but we're open to others.

But to your actual question — I love history, and I'd never want us to be on the wrong side of it. In fact, that's why a lot of the things we propose in Toronto Tomorrow aim to LEARN from the lessons of history, specifically the recent history of the highly flawed smart cities movement. In 1,524 pages, we use the term "smart cities" (or a variation thereof) maybe twice, and both times to reflect a larger movement distinct from our approach.

First, smart cities projects put tech first. We've taken the opposite approach, starting with the goals that Waterfront Toronto hopes to achieve, and seeing when (and IF) technology — both digital and physical — can be applied to help achieve them. We are against the use of tech for tech's sake.

Second, smart cities projects tend to involve off-the-shelf software that locks cities into using proprietary tools. That's not what cities need! Instead, we believe in open standards for all the tools we propose, and want them to be open for others to build on or even compete with. That's how cities win.

Last, smart cities projects tend to be top-down. Instead, we want to give communities, companies, civic organizations, researchers, and government agencies the tools to create their OWN solutions over time.

Based on all these lessons from history, and more, we don't consider our proposal a "smart city" project. And we're in agreement that all types of data — whether urban data or personal data — need strong protections for a city to thrive.

6 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

iappearmissing -7 points · 1 year ago More than 1 child

devinejoh 1 year ago

Thank you for taking the time to come to this sub.

While its stated that much of the data will be anonymized, this will still not stop the ability to fingerprint individual users, especially given the amount of telemetry data being collected. Are there any plans to handle this issue?

Further more, what kind of vetting process will 3rd party users have to go through before given access to the api?

3 Share Report Save

MatthewFabb 1 year ago

From what I've seen online and offline, some of the backlash to the Sidewalk Labs is that it is vagueness what kind of data will be tracked with what kind of sensors. As it's not known people just fill in the blanks with their own imagination of what of data will be tracked and it is all over the place.

I wonder if it would be possible to get a list of sensors that the Sidewalk Labs Toronto project will use. Also a list of the kind of data that would be tracked and how that data might be used. Now as the project develops I imagine these kinds of lists would change. So it doesn't need to be a finalized list, but I think it would help the discussion of the project.

Also the other big concern seems to be that Sidewalk Labs would be use data collected for advertising. As that is what a big part of Google's business model. Now Sidewalk Labs has stated that it would not use any personal information for advertising or sell the data to 3rd parties.

However, what further assurances could you give people that this won't change in the future? Example, this be written into the contract with the city of Toronto or with Waterfront Toronto? Will there be certain punishments written out if this were to be broken in the future?

Once again, I understand that Sidewalk Labs currently has no interest in selling the data or using the data for advertising, but that doesn't mean a future CEO of Sidewalk Labs, or a future owner if say Alphabet sold off the company, would have the same opinion.

3 Share Report Save

TheArgsenal 1 year ago

Why Toronto?

9 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

So many reasons! Toronto is a fast-growing city with exceptional diversity and a strong devotion to values around openness and inclusion.

But Toronto also faces many of the same challenges facing high-demand cities around the world: a housing affordability crisis, terrible traffic congestion, the need to reduce energy use, and the need to expand access to open space.

In fact, these challenges are threatening the city's ability to provide the inclusive opportunities that powered its growth in the first place. We believed that the gap between Toronto's values and the emerging realities would make Torontonians receptive to a new approach.

Given this complex set of urban challenges, we believe Toronto is the perfect place to demonstrate a new approach for inclusive growth that builds on the city's growing tech sector and its strong legacy of urban planning.

4 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

dranspants 1 year ago

Because we desperately want to develop the land and google is offering to do it for "free" at the low low cost of unlimited data collection on our residents for Google's profits?

11 Share Report Save

Comment removed by moderator 1 year ago 0 children

citylivingtoronto 1 year ago

Sidewalk Toronto's Quayside Development Plan proposes to be a model community for sustainability and the use of technology to improve urban living. Can you speak to some of the potential benefits from this proposed development that residents of Toronto can expect in terms of employment, learning and apprenticeship opportunities for our youth, and boosting our growing tech and "green" industries sectors?

2 Share Report Save

JamesPincheHolden 1 year ago

Sidewalk Labs huh? I don't want to be your guinea pig thanks.

2 Share Report Save

_Vagetarian 1 year ago

Hey Dan, I love the opportunity this project brings to Toronto. My question is in regard to the diversity of innovative technologies incorporated in the plan.
There are many technologies and 'innovations' that have been tried and failed, such as the remotely assembled building components. To what degree do you see all aspects of the project to be successful? do you foresee a certain percentage of Quayside failing? Which project component do you foresee to be the most city changing and innovative?

Thanks.

5 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

Thank you for the questions. Much of our proposal rests on integrating technologies that have been established in other cities around the world, although in many cases we think we can improve those technologies to go even farther.

Off-site construction is a great example. It's true there's a mixed history of success with factory-based housing, going back to the Sears Honor Bilt homes of the early 20th century. But we think the emergence of sustainable mass timber creates a new opportunity to improve factory-based construction, given that wood can be far easier to manufacture than concrete or steel, far easier to pack into shipments, and far quicker to assemble on-site.

Factory-based construction is also one of the project components that we think has the most potential to help change cities. We believe that its ability to create more predictable projects, on a faster timeline, will enable developers to deliver greater levels of below-market housing while still making their returns. It can truly help the private sector support public sector affordability goals.

I hope none of the innovations we've proposed in Quayside fails! But you're right that some might not live up to expectations, which is why we believe that more than anything else, Quayside must have the open standards to evolve over time, and the flexibility to change based on new community needs.

3 Share Report Save

handsomepenis 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Hi Dan,

An article appearing in the July issue of Briarpatch magazine quotes an unnamed former staff member of Sidewalk Labs who suggests your company purposefully "presents already-fleshed-out ideas with little room for debate, leaving conversations with residents to be a largely performative exercise"

How do you respond to the allegation that your organization has crafted a public appearance of being concerned with dialogue but in truth operates under its own volition?

In addition, do you see any conflict of interest in Sidewalk Labs leading the public consultation activities? Can you think of any other instances in which a private corporation has been entrusted to engage in a public consultation concerning their proposed activities?

4 Share Report Save

Comment deleted by user 1 year ago More than 2 children

dalewood12 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Hey Dan,

Reading through the proposal, I'm alarmed by the seeming portrayal of technology as the antidote for all the problems riddling cities. Poor transportation options? Technology? Better public spaces? Technology.

I would note that some of the most successful developments in Toronto's modern history, like the neighbouring St. Lawrence neighbourhood, were based on principles of human-centered connections and egalitarianism, not technology.

Why should technology and Big Tech set the goalposts for community development? Why should Big Tech even be involved in planning this new community?

2 Share Report Save

RiukBlackblade 1 year ago

How much would a condo cost ? Is it going to be affordable seeing that you are going to collect data from the people living there?

Also can I have one for free?! :)

2 Share Report Save

jonasbrandon 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

1. It is obvious that the most interesting smart city technologies will be those that can be rolled out to other cities, why focus on a full stack development?
2. Technology platform selection (e.g. mobility management) for the City of Toronto should be independent of this development, agree or disagree?
3. Will Sidewalk name a bridge after Peter Mansbridge? A Peter Mansbridge Bridge.
4. The report speaks to new forms of ownership, does Sidewalk in these cases intend to own / control the project in perpetuity?

1 Share Report Save

McKenzieTDW 1 year ago

Hi Dan,

I'm looking forward to learning more about Sidewalk Labs proposal this afternoon. My first question is if SWL can announce any plans to partner with the local community on launching a Data Trust? Secondly, I'd like to learn more about the conversations around partnerships and if you've had any successful conversations with potential partners. But, the most pressing question is if SWL is looking for partners for their data trust? Looking forward to hearing your thoughts.

McKenzie

1 Share Report Save

yoistoronto 1 year ago

Hi Dan, I am under the impression that success of a PPP joint arrangement, especially real estate development or infrastructure, is dependent on the ability of senior management on either side of the fence to work collaboratively. How would you rate the experience of working with City of Toronto management thus far?

1 Share Report Save

ChrisFartwick 1 year ago

Hey there!

Hope I'm not too late! How would you like to see some of your tech proliferated across other areas of Toronto (and other cities)?

Additionally, what are your thoughts on the BIA system in toronto? Do you expect Quayside to develop one? Or do you expect your IDEA district to be a replacement for one.

1 Share Report Save

eggnoodle- 1 year ago

Y

1 Share Report Save

TheBackDoorPimp 1 point · 1 year ago 0 children

[deleted] 1 year ago

How does it feel to know that one day I'm going to beat you to death with my bare hands?

1 Share Report Save

Aiesline 1 year ago

Hi Dan, What are the plans for off leash dog areas in your community?

1 Share Report Save

Ting_Brennan Waterfront 1 year ago

Hi Dan,
What are some common misconceptions about the project that you have to clarify constantly?

0 Share Report Save

ryaba 1 year ago

What tech do you personally think will come out of this that will make the biggest impact to our daily lives?

Does this project include things like equipping stores with automatic checkout? A world where I'd never have to take out my wallet or phone to tap anything is a fantasy of mine.

Lastly, what tech can you dream of that you'd want to emerge from this project? It can be something realistic, or in a distant future, your pick!

1 Share Report Save

[deleted] -5 points · 1 year ago 2 children

john1green 1 year ago

Doctor of what??

0 Share Report Save

[deleted] -12 points · 1 year ago 0 children

joeyxl L'Amoreaux 1 year ago

no answers, let see what PR says

-11 Share Report Save

Fapitalismm Vaccine Booked! 1 year ago

It doesn't start until tomorrow at 3PM as mentioned in both the announcement, and stickied comment at the top of the thread.

0 Share Report Save

Comment deleted by user 1 year ago

gammadeltat <3 Celine Dion <3 1 year ago

> We know the proposal is big, and that some parts get technical. I'll be here on Friday afternoon (July 26) at 3 p.m.

2 Share Report Save

BlackForestMountain 1 year ago

> We know the proposal is big, and that some parts get technical. I'll be here on Friday afternoon (July 26) at 3 p.m. ET to answer your questions, joined by our Editorial Director Eric Jaffe (lead writer for the proposal) and our Director for Public Policy Innovation Simon Brandler (who guided the policy proposals in Volume 3).

Clearly nobody read the post.

0 Share Report Save

[deleted] -11 points · 1 year ago 0 children

Zharoff -11 points · 1 year ago 0 children

sidewalkjon 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Hey Dan.

As a young civil engineering who is working in the IOT market currently. How would you recommend getting involved sidewalk labs specifically?

Sidewalk labs would be a dream job so I figured I'd shoot my shot! Let me know if there's anyone specific I should connect with. (Toronto of NY positions).

Thanks!

-1 Share Report Save

adam_weiler -3 points · 1 year ago 0 children

jayalldayerrday 1 year ago · *edited 1 year ago*

Hi Mr. Doctoroff,

Firstly, I admire the work you did for NYC under the Bloomberg administration. This fall, I will be pursuing my masters in Real Estate, and I am so inspired to be a part of this exciting future of smart cities around the world.

Due to the bizarre structure of our city planning, the common people of Toronto seem to have more authority on this project than government itself. It's like Joe Berridge said in his book "Perfect City" - simultaneously no one and everyone is in charge. I can't think of a more accurate description of Toronto. (Read: Anarchy)

All this being said, my question is: besides here on reddit, how can I meaningfully vote for my unwavering support of your proposal for Quayside Toronto?

Cheers

-4 Share Report Save

DanDoctoroff 1 year ago

I appreciate the kind words. I'm very proud of what we accomplished during the Bloomberg administration, especially around economic growth and affordable housing. While there won't be a referendum or direct vote on our proposal, among the key decision makers of this process will be the City Council of Toronto. You should write them and call them to voice your support! You should show up for public events or consultations! And of course you should show your support in online communities like Reddit Toronto!

2 Share Report Save

Continue this thread →

el_canadian_ 1 year ago

Why are you baboons asking questions now?!?!

Shit says Friday between 4-5....

It's Thursday just past noon.

Y'all are the reason the world is in the decline we are currently experiencing.

-18 Share Report Save

gammadeltat <3 Celine Dion <3 1 year ago

Put in questions now, answers come in later. In this sub we specifically post AMAs early so guests have lots of questions to answer.

5 Share Report Save

More posts from the toronto community

Continue browsing in r/toronto →